CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Arctic)	REPORT			
SUBJECT	Northern Sea Route	DATE DISTR.	6	25X1	
		NO. OF PAGES	2		
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	25 X 1	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES			
	This is UNEVALUATED				

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.

THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

- 1. Informant stated that a compact ice barrier existed about 50 nautical miles 25X north of the north Siberian coast. Hard ice, which had to be broken by ice-breakers, could be found in Vilkitskiy Sound at almost any time of the year. Passage through the sound, although it was only 70 nautical miles in length, took about seven days. The average temperature of the air in Vilkitskiy Sound was five degrees below zero centigrade, while the temperature outside the sound ranged between minus two and minus five degrees centigrade. There was drift ice everywhere, but navigation was not too difficult.
- 2. The Northern Sea Route was usually navigable from mid-August to mid-November. Convoys escorted by icebreakers and single unescorted ships navigated the route in either direction. Informant said that the following sailing directions were issued to ships taking the Northern Sea Route: Ships leaving Murmansk set a course for Kanin Nos (N 68-38, E 43-18), thence for Kolguyev Island (N 69-05, E 49-15), from this position through the Karskiye Vorota Strait (N 70-30, E 58-00) to the northern tip of Belyy Island (N 73-10, E 70-45), and between Sverdrup Island (N 74-35, E 79-30) and Arkticheskiy Institut Islands (N 75-15, E 81-55) to the Taymyr Peninsula. The course is then made for Russkiy Island (N 77-05, E 96-00) and continued into Vilkitskiy Sound. Taymyr Peninsula is paralleled as far north as 76 degrees, after which the course is set for Kubov Island. Cape Kurtash and Cape Svyatoy Nos (N 72-52, E 140-42) are passed about ten nautical miles on the starboard side enroute to Laptev Sound. From the latter position a course is taken along the north Siberian coast as far as Medvezhiy Islands (N 70-50, E 161-36) and Cape Shelagskiy (N 70-08, E 170-24) and again along the coast, passing through Bering Strait and continuing the voyage along the east Siberian coast as far as Vladivostok.

Comments:

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- 1. Probably Kuba Island (N 73-40, E 126-00) is meant.
- 2. By Cape Kurtash is probably meant Cape Churkin (N 72-30, E 139-36).

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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

